

INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I write with reference to Division 3 section 22: Surgical insemination of dogs is no more of a welfare concern than any other animal where this procedure is commonly applied (cats, zoo, beef cattle industry). Therefore it is nonsensical to direct the ban to dogs only. If the intent of the proposed blanket ban of surgical AI on dogs only is an attempt to clean up in the rapidly increasing issues with backyard and/or designer breeders, then you have my support but the language needs revision as not to do so would have severe ramifications for the reputable dog breeder in NSW. Just like the cattle or cat breeder, the reputable dog breeder may use surgical AI to access genetics from dogs that they would not otherwise be able to purchase. Semen is imported for several reasons: genetic improvement, access to genetics from across the world, reduce the number of sires required, access to blood lines that are not available locally, to use a sire with more than females than he would be able to serve naturally in one mating season and potentially increase the value of progeny from AI sires. It should be incumbent on the Parliament to rigorously examine all the fact and any potentially unintentional ramification of a decision to prohibit surgical AI in NSW. The decision-making must not be arbitrary or unfair and should be based on rational considerations. In short, any legislative changes must be rationally connected to the objective. With reference to the Division 3 section 22, it is unclear what the rationale and objective is, and unless removed, or at least revised, the ramifications will be widespread and particularly have severe adverse consequences for the reputable breeders of NSW who strive to produce top-quality dogs as detailed above.

Yours sincerely

Tammy Everist